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545 LB. SUFFOLK RAM STANDS 43 IN. HIGH AT THE SHOULDER

World's Largest Sheep

Dr. Joe Schallberger, of Boring, Ore., was recently certified by the Guinness Book of Records as owning the world's biggest sheep - a Suffolk ram that tips the scales at 545 lbs.

The sheep, named Stratford, stands 43 in. high at the shoulder. He weighed 19 lbs. when born on Oct. 14, 1988. His 90-day weight was 178 lbs. compared to a 90 to 95 lb. average weight for other lambs at that age.

"He just kept eating and getting bigger and bigger," says Schallberger, a veterinarian who, along with his veterinarian wife Sue, raises registered Suffolks and sells them across the U.S. and Canada. "We didn't feed him anything special to get to that size. He just seemed to have the genes that convert feed into weight easily. He's not fat. The difference is his body capacity. People who see him are amazed at his tremendous frame. If he didn't have that, he couldn't carry that kind of weight. Other than grass and alfalfa Stratford got only 2 lbs. of Land O' Lakes sheep feed a day

during the growth phase. He could easily weigh 600 lbs. if we fed him more. Stratford was the champion senior ram at the 1990 Oregon State Fair and was the third place yearling ram at the 1990 National Show last fall. Ever since he was officially weighed in March he has been on pasture yet he weighs just as much or more than he did at the weigh-in."

Stratford's father was a ram that Schallberger says might be the most popular Suffolk in the U.S., George Bros. He's sired several champions and some very big sheep. "Stratford's mother is our best milking ewe and was a contributing factor in getting him to such a high 90-day weight," notes Schallberger, who's using Stratford for breeding. "I like to trot him out when people visit the farm. He sells a lot of sheep."

For more information, contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Dr. Joe Schallberger, Whispering Hills Farms, 19905 S.E. KaDe Court, Boring, Ore. 97009 (ph 503 658-2037).

39 FEET TALL

World's Largest Boot

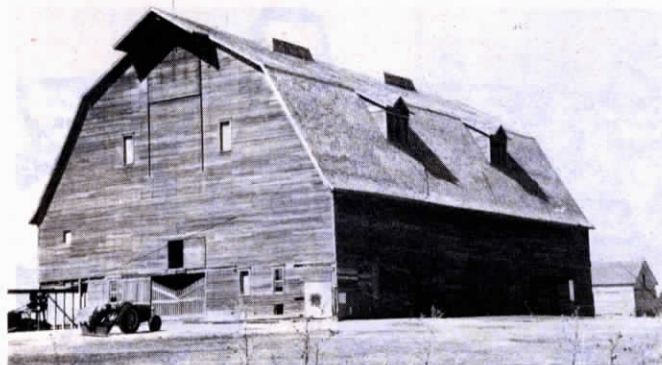
The "world's largest cowboy boot", built outside a boot store in Edmonton, Alberta, is fast becoming a popular tourist attraction.

The boot, 39 ft. tall and 14 ft. across at the bottom, was built in perfect scale to a normal size cowboy boot. It's constructed from 35 tons of concrete, steel and fiberglass. The boot's stitching is outlined by flaming red neon lights. Although the exact numbers are not known, it's believed that over 150,000 people have already stopped by to see it.

"Western Canada is cowboy country and

Edmonton has a reputation for everything big," says Terry Paholek, owner of Western Boot Factory. "We're Canada's largest wholesaler and retailer of Western boots and we have the largest boot store in Canada both in sales and floor area so we had to have the largest boot," he says, noting that the boot cost a quarter of a million dollars to build.

For more information, contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Western Boot Factory, 10007-167 St., Edmonton, Alberta, Canada T5P 3W3 (ph 403 489-0594).



Farmers and townspeople in Rooks County, Kan., are trying to restore this big barn which is a local landmark. It measures 100 ft. long, 64 ft. wide and 54 ft. high.

ONE OF THE BIGGEST IN MIDWEST

Group Tries To Save Historic Kansas Barn

If you've got a historical landmark you'd like to save in your area, you may be interested in the way a group of farmers and townspeople in Rooks County, Kan., have gone about launching a campaign to save one of the biggest barns in the Midwest.

The big barn, which is 100 ft. long, 64 ft. wide and 54 ft. high, was built in 1912 by William Thomas on his farm between Woodston and Alton. It's a masterpiece of engineering with an unobstructed haymow large enough to hold a university-size basketball court. Construction required 120,000 board feet of lumber, 7,000 lbs. of nails, 1,200 lbs. of bolts, and 115,000 cedar shingles. It was designed to hold 54 horses, 50 head of cattle, and 500 tons of loose hay.

Thomas, who farmed 1,800 acres of wheat with horses, bought his first tractor in 1917 and then gradually phased out horses, making the barn obsolete. It has been virtually abandoned since Thomas' death in 1926.

Two years ago local minister Richard Taylor launched a campaign to restore the local landmark. "To stand in the haymow and see the long row of identical giant trusses supporting the sidewalls and roof is truly awe-inspiring," he says. "With new roofing, paint and other repairs, it appears the barn would stand forever."

Together with local farmers and townspeople, and with the cooperation of Thomas' son who donated the barn and 15 acres to the group, Taylor set up a non-profit corporation to raise money to repair and maintain the barn. The group plans to create a museum of horse-drawn equipment and a center for square dancing, art shows, and

theatrical productions.

So far the group has raised \$35,000, which has been used to start repairs. To give an idea of the immense expenses involved, roofing the barn alone (with cedar shingles) cost over \$20,000. A local contractor has started work on the foundation and inmates from a nearby prison have been brought in to clean up the grounds. The original cupolas, which were blown off the top of the barn years ago, will have to be restored.

People who contribute \$50 or more will have their names on permanent display inside the big barn and each contributor will be sent a portion of one of the 1912 wood shingles from the barn or a scale model of the barn, designed by a professor at Wichita State University. Because the group incorporated with non-profit status, all contributions are tax-deductible. And because it's a historical museum, the corporation is also exempt from paying sales taxes on materials purchased for the project.

"We hope to become the barn dance capital of Kansas so we're encouraging square dance clubs to contribute along with anyone else who wants to preserve this reminder of what this country was like at the turn of the century," says D. Lee Hull, Woodston, Kan., vice-president of the board of directors of Classic Big Barn, Inc. The group also raises money by selling postcards, notecards, posters, caps, plaques, and T-shirts. Visitors are welcome at any time to view the barn.

To contribute, or for more information, contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Big Barn, Inc., Box 2, Woodston, Kan. 67675.



Stitching on the big boot is outlined by flaming red neon lights.